

MAR 21 1925

FISHERIES

TAKU RIVER

Northeast of Admiralty Island on the Mainland Coast.

When Taku River was first examined on July 1 there were not sufficient salmon to warrant fishing as it was the interim between the king and sockeye runs, therefore, the fishermen were changing their nets for the sockeye run.

The sockeye run began June 25, which specie was very plentiful in the beginning but diminished steadily after July 14, until August 4, when the run was practically exhausted. Nearly thirty fishermen began operations about July 6, in Taku River, using one-man gill nets, catching from 1500 to 3000 salmon per day, which was estimated to have been only twenty percent of the number escaping to the streams.

The humpbacks together with a few chums and an occasional king appeared about July 12, when practically 750 of these species were caught. The humpback run steadily increased until about July 23.

The Cohoes appeared about the first of August and on August 4 these thirty fishermen caught an average of 45 fish each, one-half of which were cohoes and one-half sockeyes. The peak of the coho run was on September 13, when there were practically 3000 salmon caught, 60% of which were Cohoes and 40% Chums.

A few chums were in evidence commencing July 12; however, up to September 13 it proved to be a very small run.

Most of the fishing was done before and after low tide.

(Extract from report dated July 14.)

"I have to report that hair seal are said to be very destructive to salmon here. The fishermen say that they believe that the seal take half as many fish as the fishermen do. The seal take salmon from the nets and they can be seen working along the nets constantly when the net is once laid out. Some fishermen say that at times they see as many seal working around their nets as they have floats along the line thereof."

Ben Bullard,
Stream Watchman.

Season of 1924.